

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings and versions of claims in this application. Please amend claims 1, 7, 8, 13, 19, 21, 23, 25, 26, 33, 34, 37, 40, 41, 44, 46, 48, 49, 51, and 52, cancel claims 4-6, 9-12, 20, 45, 47, 50, and 62-71, and add new claims 72-90:

1. (Currently Amended) A medical device comprising:
 - a handle;
 - an end effector assembly; and
 - an elongate, flexible member connecting the handle to the end effector assembly,

wherein the handle includes an elongate portion and a spool portion disposed around the elongate portion, wherein the spool portion includes a proximal portion and a distal portion connected by a central portion, wherein a plurality of grooves are defined by the proximal portion and another plurality of grooves are defined by the distal portion, wherein the plurality of grooves are circumferentially aligned with the another plurality of grooves, and defines at least one groove is configured to accommodate at least one of a portion of the elongate member and a portion of the end effector assembly.
2. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove is configured to receive at least one half of a cross-section of the elongate member.
3. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein a width of the at least one groove is substantially the same as a diameter of the elongate member.

4. - 6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 6 1, wherein the at least one groove is defined by the proximal portion.

8. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 6 1, wherein the at least one groove is defined by the distal portion.

9. - 12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 6 1, wherein the at least one groove extends through the proximal portion, the central portion, and the distal portion.

14. (Withdrawn) The medical device of claim 13, wherein a portion of the at least one groove is wider than the rest of the at least one groove.

15. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove is configured to accommodate more than one portion of the elongate member.

16. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove comprises at least two grooves.

17. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 16, wherein one of the at least two grooves is configured to accommodate more than one portion of the elongate member and the other of the at least two grooves is configured to accommodate one portion of the elongate member.

18. (Withdrawn) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the handle further comprises a channel configured to accommodate an end effector of the end effector assembly.

19. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 18, wherein the channel is defined by a the spool portion of the handle.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 20 19, wherein the channel is defined by the distal portion.

22. (Withdrawn) The medical device of claim 21, wherein the at least one groove is defined by the proximal portion, and wherein a circumferential position of the at least one groove on the proximal portion is aligned with a circumferential position of the channel on the distal portion.

23. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 6 1, wherein the at least one groove is defined by the proximal portion and the central portion.

24. (Withdrawn) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the handle further comprises a notch configured to accommodate an end effector of the end effector assembly.

25. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 24, wherein the notch is defined by a the spool portion of the handle.

26. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 25, ~~wherein the spool portion comprises a proximal portion and a distal portion connected by a central portion, and wherein the notch is defined by the distal portion.~~

27. (Withdrawn) The medical device of claim 26, wherein the at least one groove is on the proximal portion, and
wherein the at least one groove and the notch are on corresponding portions of the proximal portion and the distal portion, respectively.

28. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove is configured to receive a loop of the elongate member.

29. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove is configured to receive loops of the elongate member.

30. (Withdrawn) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove includes a radial groove and a circumferential groove.

31. (Withdrawn) The medical device of claim 30, wherein the radial groove and circumferential groove are connected.

32. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, further comprising a throughhole on the handle.

33. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim [4] 1, further comprising a throughhole on the spool portion configured to accommodate the elongate portion therethrough.

34. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 6 1, further comprising a throughhole extending through the proximal portion, central portion, and distal portion.

35. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the end effector assembly is biopsy forceps jaws.

36. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the end effector assembly is a pair of opposing biopsy forceps jaws.

37. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 6 1, wherein the at least one groove is defined by the central portion.

38. (Withdrawn) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the portion of the handle that defines the at least one groove is composed of a material configured to assist in retaining the portion of the end effector assembly.

39. (Withdrawn) The medical device of claim 24, wherein the portion of the handle that comprises the notch is composed of a material configured to assist in retaining the end effector of the end effector assembly.

40. (Currently Amended) A medical device comprising:

 a handle;
 an end effector assembly; and
 an elongate, flexible member connecting the handle to the end effector assembly,

 wherein the handle includes an elongate portion and a spool portion disposed around the elongate portion, wherein the spool portion includes a proximal portion and a distal portion connected by a central portion, wherein a plurality of grooves are defined by the proximal portion and another plurality of grooves are defined by the distal portion,

wherein the plurality of grooves are circumferentially aligned with the another plurality of grooves, and at least one of a portion of the elongate member and a portion of the end effector assembly is disposed in at least one groove defined by the handle.

41. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 40, ~~further comprising a plurality of grooves defined by the handle,~~ wherein a plurality of portions of the elongate member are disposed in the plurality of grooves.

42. (Withdrawn) The medical device of claim 40, further comprising a channel, wherein the portion of the end effector assembly is disposed in the channel.

43. (Withdrawn) The medical device of claim 40, further comprising a notch, wherein the portion of the end effector assembly is disposed in the notch.

44. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 40, wherein a plurality of portions of the elongate member are disposed in ~~one of the~~ at least one ~~grooves~~ groove.

45. (Canceled)

46. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 45 40, further comprising a channel defined by the spool portion,

wherein the portion of the end effector assembly is disposed in the channel.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 47 40, wherein the at least one groove is defined by the proximal portion.

49. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 47 40, wherein the at least one groove is defined by the distal portion.

50. (Canceled)

51. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 50 40, wherein one portion of the elongate, flexible member is disposed in one of the one ~~groove~~ plurality of grooves and another portion of the elongate, flexible member is disposed in one of the another ~~groove~~ plurality of grooves.

52. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 47 40, wherein the portion of the end effector assembly is disposed in a groove defined by the proximal portion and the central portion.

53. (Original) The medical device of claim 40, wherein the elongate member forms at least one loop.

54. (Original) The medical device of claim 40, wherein the elongate member forms a plurality of loops.

55. (Original) The medical device of claim 54, wherein at least some of the plurality of loops are disposed in the at least one groove.

56. (Original) The medical device of claim 54, wherein at least some of the plurality of loops are disposed in separate grooves.

57. (Original) The medical device of claim 54, wherein at least some of the plurality of loops are disposed in separate pairs of grooves.

58. (Withdrawn) The medical device of claim 40, further comprising a channel defined by the handle,
wherein the portion of the end effector assembly is disposed in the channel.

59. (Withdrawn) The medical device of claim 40, further comprising a notch defined by the handle,
wherein the portion of the end effector assembly is disposed in the notch.

60. (Original) The medical device of claim 40, wherein the end effector assembly is biopsy forceps jaws.

61. (Original) The medical device of claim 40, wherein the end effector assembly is a pair of opposing biopsy forceps jaws.

62. - 71. (Canceled)

72. (New) A medical device comprising:

a handle;

an end effector assembly; and

an elongate, flexible member forming loops and connecting the handle to the end effector assembly,

wherein a first groove defined by the handle houses each of the loops.

73. (New) The medical device of claim 72, wherein the first groove has a length greater than the aggregate diameters of the loops.

74. (New) The medical device of claim 72, wherein a width of the first groove is substantially the same as a diameter of the elongate member.

75. (New) The medical device of claim 72, wherein the handle comprises an elongate portion and a spool portion disposed around the elongate portion.

76. (New) The medical device of claim 75, wherein the first groove is defined by the spool portion.

77. (New) The medical device of claim 75, wherein the spool portion comprises a proximal portion and a distal portion connected by a central portion.

78. (New) The medical device of claim 77, wherein the first groove is defined by the proximal portion.

79. (New) The medical device of claim 77, wherein the first groove is defined by the distal portion.

80. (New) The medical device of claim 77, wherein the first groove is defined by the central portion.

81. (New) The medical device of claim 77, wherein the first groove is defined by the proximal portion and the central portion.

82. (New) The medical device of claim 77, wherein the first groove extends through the proximal portion, the central portion, and the distal portion.

83. (New) The medical device of claim 72, wherein the handle defines a notch circumferentially adjacent to the first groove and configured to accommodate a portion of the elongate member.

84. (New) A medical device comprising:
a handle;
an end effector assembly; and
an elongate, flexible member connecting the handle to the end effector assembly,

wherein the handle defines at least one groove configured to accommodate at least one of a first portion of the elongate member and a portion of the end effector assembly; and

wherein the handle defines at least one notch circumferentially adjacent to the at least one groove and configured to accommodate a second portion of the elongate member.

85. (New) The medical device of claim 84, wherein the handle comprises an elongate portion and a spool portion disposed around the elongate portion.

86. (New) The medical device of claim 85, wherein the at least one groove is defined by the spool portion.

87. (New) The medical device of claim 85, wherein the at least one notch is defined by the spool portion.

88. (New) The medical device of claim 84, wherein the second portion of the elongate member is disposed in the at least one notch.

89. (New) The medical device of claim 84, wherein the at least one notch has a width substantially the same as a diameter of the elongate member.

90. (New) The medical device of claim 84, wherein the at least one notch has a width narrower than a diameter of the elongate member.